

INNOVATOR

Accelerating Innovation for the American Driving Experience

EDC Exchanges Bring Technology to Local Level

Sharing information on project development tools and technologies with local and tribal audiences is the goal of a new outreach effort by the Federal Highway Administration. As part of the Every Day Counts initiative, FHWA and its state divisions are partnering with Local and Tribal Technical Assistance Programs to host a Web conference series called EDC Exchanges.

In the exchanges, participants interact with both Webinar presenters and local, state and FHWA experts who facilitate discussion and answer questions geared to the local level. Two states, Massachusetts and Oklahoma, report that providing other technical presentations and facilitating live interaction with experts make the exchange program more beneficial to audiences.

The first EDC Exchange centered on the construction manager-general contractor project delivery method, which involves the contractor early in the construction process. In Massachusetts, LTAP officials were concerned about potential attendance because the state is just beginning to use CM-GC, so they scheduled experts to make presentations on two other Every Day Counts technologies, warm-mix asphalt and the Safety Edge™.

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Credit: Oklahoma State University

The Oklahoma LTAP and TTAP Centers enhanced the EDC Exchange experience for participants by adding live presentations and interaction with experts.

Innovator Becomes FHWA's Go-To Source for Innovation News

The *Innovator* newsletter is changing. Published in the past by the Highways for LIFE program, it's now part of the Federal Highway Administration's new Center for Accelerating Innovation and will expand its coverage of how innovation is being used to improve the American highway system.

The Center for Accelerating Innovation houses both Every Day Counts—an initiative to deploy innovation aimed at shortening project delivery time, enhancing roadway safety and protecting the environment—and Highways for LIFE—an initiative to accelerate innovation use to build roads faster, better, more safely and with less congestion.

"Accelerating widespread use of innovation is critical to improving the nation's highways and keeping America moving in the 21st century," said Hari Kalla, director of the Center for Accelerating Innovation. "Bringing the Every Day Counts and Highways for LIFE initiatives under one umbrella will allow FHWA's ongoing efforts to encourage innovation use to have an even more significant impact. The *Innovator* newsletter helps us tell the innovation story and provide useful information to our stakeholders throughout the highway community."

Since its launch five years ago, *Innovator* has brought readers information on how states are using performance

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